

the General Assembly held in New Berne for procuring a Great Seal for the State.¹⁸ It provided "that William Tisdale, Esq., be and he is hereby appointed to cut and engrave a seal, under the direction of his Excellency the Governor, for the use of the State." On Sunday, November 7, 1779, the Senate concurred in a resolution passed by the House of Commons allowing William Tisdale, Esq., the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds for making the Great Seal of the State.¹⁹ Under this act a seal was secured which was used until 1794. The actual size of this seal was three inches in diameter and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. It was made by putting two cakes of wax together with paper wafers on the outside and pressed between the dies forming the obverse and reverse sides of this seal. The seal press must have been very large and unwieldy, for Governor Spaight in writing to Colonel Thomas in February, 1793, said: "Let the screws by which the impression is to be made be as portable as possible so as it may be adapted to our present Itinerant Government. The one now in use by which the Great Seal is at present made is so large and unwieldy as to be carried only in a cart or wagon and of course has become stationary at the Secretary's office which makes it very inconvenient." Governor Spaight in January, 1793, in writing of the Tisdale seal then in use says: "The old Seal is not only nearly worn out but in my opinion has been always a reproach to the genius of the State." An official de-

NOTE.—In the library at Grimesland, among the papers of the late General Bryan Grimes, are nine of the Tisdale seals in good condition pendant to grants dated from 1779 to 1784.

There is also a seal of North Carolina, to a grant dated 1745, which is bulkier than the George II seals usually seen, and is $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch thick and without the usual paper covering.

There are also two imperfect impressions of the Albemarle seal to two grants dated in 1715. These two grants, containing 1228 acres, then called Mt. Calvert and Mt. Pleasant and now a part of Grimesland Plantation, are among the first entries made in Tuscarora territory after the Treaty of Peace, and were the first lands granted on Tar River.

Among these papers is a grant from the Earl of Granville for 700 acres, bearing his seal, and this is the only grant I recall ever having seen with his seal attached.

¹⁸C. R., Vol. XII, pp. 612, 613, 620, 642, 646, 654, 730, 737, 759, 751.

¹⁹C. R., Vol. XIII, pp. 891, 956, 983.